

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Purpose: The Department of Commerce (DOC) is responsible for working with economic and community development organizations, businesses, communities, governmental entities, elected officials and the public. The department functions to diversify and expand the state's economic base through business creation, expansion, retention and infrastructure improvement.

Authorities: MCA - **Title 2**, Chapter 15, Part 18 and **Title 90**, Chapters 1,3,6,7 & 8.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Director's Office

- Assists in implementing the Montana Drought Plan as an active member of the Governor's DAC. *[Drought]*

Business Resources Division

- Provide business assistance and training on a variety of subjects including insurance and risk management, crisis cash flow management and etc. through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Micro Business Development Center (MBDC) networks. *[Human Service Programs]*
- Can assist in developing specialized workshops and training events to get the message to a larger group of businesses versus one-on-one counseling through SBDC and MBDC networks *[Human Service Programs]*
- Collect and interpret business economic impact data to justify program assistance requests under a Presidential declaration. *[Coordination]*

Community Development Division

- Serve as facilitator/enabler on:
 - Statewide disaster as a central planning unit in Helena to help represent local government redevelopment priorities/needs.
 - Community/sub-region disaster with the appropriate authority; could be on a temporary duty assignment to assist in a local government redevelopment process. *[Public Assistance]*
- Coordinate with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to use Treasure State Endowment Program **limited** emergency construction dollars for grants that would be necessary to remedy conditions that if allowed to continue until legislative approval could be obtained would endanger public health and safety and expose applicant to substantial financial risk. *[Public Assistance]*

- Can move new federal/state disaster money to local governments for a rebuilding program in the case of an extraordinary state/community disaster and with ‘special’ Presidential/Gubernatorial declarations and ‘special’ congressional/legislative authorizations. [*Public Assistance*]

Housing Division

- Handle the distribution of emergency housing vouchers that are issued as a result of a declaration. [*Human Service Programs*]
- Work with effected homeowners who have Board of Housing mortgages. [*Human Service Programs*]

Promotion Montana Division

- Can use Internet capability to keep non-residents and tourism industry advised of the situation status. [*Coordination - Public Information*]